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THE

ACCOUNT

GIVEN BY

Sir John Aſhby Vice-Admiral,

AND

Reere-Admiral ROOKE

TO THE

Lords Commiſſioners,

OF THE

ENGAGEMENT

AT

S E A,

Between the

Engliſh, Dutch, and French Fleets.

June the 30*th.* 1690.

WITH

A Journal of the Fleet ſince their departure from St. *Hellens*, to their return to the *Buoy-in-the-Nore*, and other Material Paſſages relating to the ſaid Engagement.

LONDON,

Printed for *Randal Taylor* near *Stationers-Hall*, 1691.

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RPJCB

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AN ACCOUNT Of the Late Engagement at SEA.

On *Monday* the 30th of *June*, 1690.

The CONTENTS.

1. *Vice-Admiral* Ashby's *and Rear-Admiral* Rooke's *Accounts of the Sea Engagement of the* 30*th of* June, 1690.
2. *The Lords Commissioners Letter to the Queen's Majesty concerning the same.*
3. *The Examinations of the Captains.*
4. *A Journal or Account of the Passages and Actions that have happen'd in our Fleet, since we set Sail from St.* Hellens, *to our Return to the* Buoy *in the* Nore.

Sunday the 29th of *June*, 1690. This Evening our Fleet being at Anchor off *Beachy*, about Three Leagues off, the Wind *N. E.* by *N.* the Admiral call'd a Council of Flag Officers, and imparted unto us the Queen's Order for engaging the Enemy; who

then lay about *S. S. W.* from us, about six Leagues distance. At Ten at Night our Fleet weigh'd, the Wind at *N.* we lay by with our Heads towards the Shoar all Night.

Monday the 30th of *June*, at break of Day, our whole Fleet bore away, the Wind at *N. N. E.* the Admiral then putting out the Signal for drawing into a Line of Battle; then fill'd, and bore down upon the Enemies Fleet. At Eight a Clock the Admiral put out the Signal to engage the Enemy; we then being about a League off them, who immediately lay their head Sails to the Masts, we still bearing down upon them; about Nine they fill'd, and stood towards the Shoar with Top-Sails; at which time the *Dutch*, which led the Van, began the Battle at a considerable distance. About Ten, I with my Division engaged the Enemy, which happened to be *Tourvill's* Squadron; we fighting in a Line, still keeping three points from the Wind, often backing our Main Top-Sail to keep the Line, and make it good. About Twelve, the *Lion* and *Expedition* were disabled; and about Four a Clock our Fore Top-Mast was shot by the Board, at which time it fell Calm: And Vice-Admiral *Vandeputt* having lost his Main Top-Mast, (which led our head Division,) put all his Division out of the Line, so that I fell heavy on them, by reason we had not Wind to work our Boats; at which time I saw Nine Sail of the Enemy, that had weathered the Van of the *Dutch*, and engaged them on both sides. The Vice-Admiral *Putten's* Squadron being disabled, the Admiral Orders them to Anchor, which being done, the Admiral of the Blew drove to Lee-ward of them, and Anchored between them and the Enemy. About Nine at Night the Fleet

weigh'd,

weigh'd, and drove up the Chanel with the Tide of Flood.

Tueſday the 1ſt of *July*, the Admiral call'd the Flag Officers together, where it was reſolved we ſhould retreat with the Fleet to the Eaſtward; and in Caſe the Enemy ſhould preſs us to deſtroy the diſabled Ships, rather than hazard another Engagement to protect them.

This is the exacteſt Account I can give.

Dated the 11th of *July*, 1690. Signed *J. Aſhby.*

An Account of the late Battle at Sea, *between the* Engliſh *and* Dutch, *and the* French-Fleet, June *the* 30*th*, 1690.

ON *Sunday* the 29th of *June*, in the Evening, our Fleet being at Anchor, *S. E.* about 3 Leagues off *Beachy*, with the Wind at *N. N. E.* and *N. E.* by *N.* The Admiral call'd a Council of Flag Officers, and imparted to us the Queen's Order for engaging the Enemy, who then lay *S. S. W.* about ſix Leagues off us. At Ten at Night our Fleet weigh'd, and the Wind inclining to be *Northerly*; we lay by with our Heads unto the Shoar all Night.

On *Monday* the 30th. At break of Day, the Wind at *N. N. E.* and *E. Beachy* bearing *N. E.* and by *E.* Three or Four Leagues off, my Lord *Torrington* put out the Signal for drawing into a Line of Battle; fill'd, and in that Order bore down upon the Enemies Fleet, who were under Sail, ſtanding with their heads by a Wind. At Eight my Lord put out the Signal for a Battle, our Fleet being

 within

within three Miles of the Enemy, who immediately braced their Head Sails to the Masts, and lay for us. At Nine the *Dutch* Squadron, leading the Van of our Fleet, began to engage the Enemies Van at a considerable distance; and about half an hour after, the Blew Squadron began with their Rear; but they having formed their Line in a kind of Half Moon, the Red Squadron did not begin to engage their Body till near Ten a Clock. We fought in a reasonable good Line, backing and filling with Top-Sails, as the Enemy did; which I believe they chose, to give their Ships opportunity to stretch out a Head of our Van. We sail'd all day Two Points, and sometimes Four from the Wind; and as we bore down upon the Enemy, they lasked away from us; and at the latter part of the Day, when it fell little Wind, they tow'd round away with their Boats a Head, till we were out of shot, insomuch that I thought we had the better of the Battle; till I saw the *Dutch* Squadron so much disabled. I can give no account of their Misfortune, by reason of the distance between us, more than that when we left off. I saw them very hotly engag'd, with the Enemy on both sides of them; in which it was impossible to give them any relief, it being then stark Calm, and continued so most part of the Night after.

My Lord *Torrington* ordered the *Dutch* disabled Ships to come to an Anchor. At Nine at Night we weigh'd, and drove up the Tide of Flood all Night.

On *Tuesday* the 1st of *July*. In the Afternoon my Lord *Torrington* call'd a Council of Flag Officers, where it was resolv'd to retreat to the East-wards, and in case the Enemy presſed us, to destroy the disabled Ships, rather than to hazard another Engagement to protect them.

them. I can accuſe no Man of neglect of his Duty in this Action; but do impute our Misfortune to the Advantage the Enemy had of us, in the Number and Quality of our Ships.

This is the moſt exact Account that I can give of the late Action.

From on Board the *Dutcheſs* at the *Buoy of the Nore*, the 11th of *July*, 1690. Signed *G. Rooke.*

The Lords Commiſſioners Letter, to the Queen's Majeſty.

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

IN purſuance of your Majeſty's Commiſſion under the Great Seal, bearing date the 14th of this Inſtant *July*. Commanding and impowering us, to examine and enquire into the Actions, Conduct, Courage, and Behaviour of the Admirals, Vice-Admirals, and Rear-Admirals, of your Majeſty's Fleet; and the Captains, Commanders of any of your Majeſty's Ships in the ſame; in the late Engagement, or Fight againſt the *French* Fleet, which happen'd on *Monday* the 30th day of *June* laſt paſt, near the Coaſt of *Suſſex*.

On the 15th Inſtant we repaired to your Majeſty's Fleet at Anchor at the *Buoy of the Nore*, where having ſummon'd on Board the *Sandwich* the Flag Officers, and all the Captains of your Majeſty's Fleet, your Majeſty's Commiſſion was open'd, and publickly read; after which, we immediately proceeded to the Examination of the reſpective Flag Officers upon Oath, and then directed the Commanders in Chief to ſend to *Shearneſs* the Captains

that

that were preſent in the Fleet, whom we likewiſe examined one by one upon Oath.

We have taken the ſeveral Examinations in Writing, which we humbly preſent to your Majeſty, together with an Abſtract drawn from the ſeveral Evidences, whereby the whole ſtate of the late Engagement may the more eaſily appear to your Majeſty.

On *Sunday* the 29th of *June* laſt, in the Evening, the Earl of *Torrington* call'd a Council of Flag Officers, where the Reſolution was taken to engage the Enemy the next Day; in Order to which the Fleet weigh'd the ſame Night about Ten, and about Three in the Morning they diſcovered the Enemy at Anchor between Three and Four Leagues to the Leeward of them.

About four in the morning, the Signal was given to draw into a Line of Battle, and in that Order they bore down towards the Enemy. About Eight, on the 30*th.* of *June*, the Admiral put out the Signal for Battle, being then about a Leagues diſtance from the Enemy, who lay by in Order of Battle to receive him.

The Wind blew freſh in the morning, the Admiral bearing down with his whole Line, he brought to between Eight and Nine, being at the diſtance of twice Cannon Shot from the Enemy; and about that time he bore away to the *Southward*, Sir *John Aſhby*'s Diviſion doing the like; but ſoon after Sir *John Aſhby* bore again to the *Northward*, to join the *Dutch* Squadron, who lay for him; and to make more haſte, he ſet his Top-ſails, his whole Diviſion doing the ſame. The Admiral and his Diviſion ſtood after with two Top-ſails only, whereby there happen'd a conſiderable Interval between thoſe two Diviſions of the Red.

About

About Nine, The *Dutch* leading the Van, began the Fight at firſt at a Diſtance, and preſently after the Blew Engag'd; Sir *John Aſhby*, with his Diviſions kept his Line, and bore in equally with the *Dutch*; and the *Dutch* not ſtretching to the Head of the *French* Line at firſt, gave opportunity to about Nine of the *French* Ships to weather them; Sir *John Aſhby* being in Shot of *Tourville*, the *French* Admiral fired two Guns, the uſual ſign of Chalenge, which he took no Notice of, lying with his Top-ſailes aback in order (as was ſuppoſed) to fight the *Engliſh* Admiral; Sir *John Aſhby* then fired a Broad-ſide upon him, and continued Fighting for an hour and a half, till he was diſabled, by his Fore-top-maſt-head being ſhot away.

It was Obſerved, that the *French*, being preſs'd by the *Dutch* and Vice-Admiral's Diviſion, gave way, and clapt on more Sail to help them off.

Sir *Ralph Delavall*, Vice-Admiral of the Blew, being, about Nine, in the Line with the Admiral, finding he brought to at the Diſtance of twice Gun Shot, he with his Diviſion edg'd nearer to the Enemy, till he came within Muſquet Shot, and then began to Fire; and ſo continued, the Enemy ſtill edging from him, and he preſſing forward, till he came at laſt almoſt into their Line; thoſe he engag'd with ſetting up their Top-gallant Sails, Sprit Sails, and Main Sails for their getting away; and when there was but little Wind, they tow'd from them with their Boats a head. During this Action, there was a great ſpace between the Van of the Blew, and the Rear of the Red.

The Diviſions of the Admiral, and the Rear-Admiral of the Red, which were nearer to the middle of the Line, began at Ten to fire, when they were within Cannon Shot of

of the Enemy ; the Rear-Admiral being ſomewhat to the *Leeward*.

About Eleven, the Admiral being acquainted ſome *French* Ships had weathered the *Dutch*, he ordered the Ships ſhould Luff to the *Eaſtward* ; after which there happen'd a Calm, and then he was tow'd down between the Enemy and the *Dutch*, who were then at Anchor.

Upon the whole, it ſeems to be a general Opinion ; That if the Admiral, and the Rear-Admiral of the Red, had bore down, and preſſed the Enemy, equally with the reſt of the Fleet, the *French* probably would not have had the Succeſs as to be able to keep the Sea ; and many of the Officers of theſe two Diviſions wiſhed they might have been nearer to the Enemy.

As to what relates to that Part of the Commiſſion which concerns the Embezlement of Stores ; We finding that the Remains have been taken by the Officers of the *Ordnance*, who ſay, that little more than one third of the Powder has been ſpent in this Action, we have made no farther enquiry into that matter.

Sheerneſs the 18th. *of* July, 1690.

Sign'd

Pembrooke
Maclesfield
R. Howard
H. Goodricke
Tho. Lee

The

The Examinations of the Captains.

CAptain *Carter.* About Four in the Morning, they had ſight of the *French Fleet*, about three Leagues off to the *Leeward*, the Signal being given for the Line of Battle; they ſtood before the Wind with their Top-ſails only, bearing towards the *French.* At Eight, being about Four Miles from the Enemy, the Earl of *Torrington* laid his Ships head to the *Southward*, and Sir *John Aſhby* did the like; but a little after, Sir *John* wore his Ship to the *Northward*, as did his Diviſion, in Order to join them the ſooner.

Sir *John* ſet his Fore-ſail, but the Admiral and his Diviſion ſtood after them with two Top-ſails only.

About Nine, he was himſelf to *Leeward*, of four or five of the *Dutch* Ships nearer to the Enemy; the *Debtford*, *Sandwich*, and *Elizabeth* following him.

At that Monſieur *Tourville* lay with his Fore-top-ſail aback (as he thought) ſtaying for my Lord *Torrington*; but Sir *John Aſhby* being then in reach of him, fired two Guns, which I ſuppoſe was a Chalenge; but the other taking no Notice, Sir *John* gave him a Broad-ſide, and engaged him for an hour and half, and in that time loſt his Fore-top-maſt Head.

The Admiral's Diviſion was at a diſtance from them, they making no more Sail than with their two Top-ſails; till between one and two a Clock, he ſet his Fore-ſail, and there being but little Wind, with his Boats a Head, he towed off from the Enemy; and he judges he was a Miles diſtance from them, and rather more from the Enemy.

The Earl of *Torrington* maketh a Breach to the *Southward* between Eight and Nine, which courſe he ſtood half

an hour, occaſioning the *Dutch* Fleet, or the greateſt part of them, to lay their main Top-ſails to the Maſts, to ſtay for them; and he judged that might be the Reaſon why they could not reach the Van of the *French* Fleet before they Engag'd, and gave the *French* an opportunity to get the Wind of them.

Being asked, what became of the *French* Ships that were oppoſite to that left ſpace between thoſe Diviſions of the Red.

He anſwered, that they fell down (as he ſuppoſed) upon the Vice-Admiral and the *Dutch*, endeavouring to ſupply the places of thoſe Ships, that were diſabled by Us, and drew out of the Line.

Captain *Ker.* That Captain *Carter* led Sir *John Aſhby*'s Diviſion, and joined cloſe to the Dutch.

That he followed in his Station, Captain *Mitchell* being next him.

When they were ſo near, that a Shot of the Enemies paſs'd through his Ship, he began to Fire.

The ſternmoſt Ship of the *Dutch* the Captain kept Firing, his Sails not hoiſted, and they were in no good Order.

He continued Firing about two Hours and a half, beginning at Nine, and then having his Running Rigging Shot, he was forced to Luff out of his Station, to knot and ſplice his Rigging, which he had not above two Men capable to doe.

Upon his Luffing out, Captain *Mitchell* fill'd up the Line.

About Ten, having mended his Rigging, he wore his Ship to get into his Station, but the Vice-Admiral being then diſabled, ſent his Boat with his Lieutenant to command him to tow him out, which he did.

All this while the *Plymouth*, and *Elizabeth* were fighting near to the *Dutch*, and as he thought to the *Leeward* of ſome of them.

About two, it was a dead Calm, then the disabled Ships did their best to tow off, and at Tide of Ebb they Anchored.

He thought the *French* gave way, but could not tell whether it were not in Order to weather the *Dutch*; but he is sure they were close pressed.

He could not judge what distance the Admiral's Division was from them, all their Division was Engag'd, and did well for ought we know.

Captain *Mitchell*. The *Dutch* did not sail in their Line as they should have done, they began to Fire at the Distance of Cannon Shot, but came afterwards within half a Gun Shot of the Enemy; the *French* edg'd from the Wind, but he cannot tell whether it were not to give their Ships an Opportunity to weather the *Dutch*, and as the *French* edg'd away, others supplied their places from the Line of Battle.

Captain *Carter*. Captain *Kerr*, and himself were joined immediately to the *Dutch*, where the Vice-Admiral was disabled and came aboard him; he told him he had so many Men wounded, and not having his Complement at first, that he must desire him to send for one hundred or two hundred Men.

Sir *John Ashby*. The Day they Fought it was a fresh Gale from Seven to Nine in the Morning, and was a sailing Gale from Nine till towards One, but began to be duller, and before Two, there fell a Calm.

The Signal for Battle was given about Eight in the Morning; both Fleets standing *North* and *South* of *Beachy*.

The *Dutch* Squadron began to Engage about Nine, and when they bore down, they left about Nine of the *French* Ships a head of them, which by One he saw had got the Wind of them.

He follow'd Vice-Admiral *Putten*, who was in the Rear of the *Dutch* Squadron, and ſtood in a Line with them till they were Diſabled; and about the ſame time, he loſt his Fore-top-maſt, and his Fire-ſhip Diſabled; thinking to ſuccour the *Dutch*, he went into Captain *Mitchell*'s Ship the *Elizabeth*; but he telling him he would not do any thing unleſs he could furniſh him with one hundred or two hundred Seamen, he return'd to his own Ship; or otherwiſe, he had born down between the Enemy and the *Dutch*, and might in part have prevented their Misfortune.

About One he eſpied about Nine Ships of the *French* to the Windward of the *Dutch* Squadron; whereupon he ſprang his Luff, and ſoon after they fell back.

After the *Dutch* were Diſabled, they fell into a Confuſion, ſailing about three deep; ſo that they were in danger from one another, and they began to Fire at to great a diſtance.

The Earl of *Torrinton* brought to the firſt time half an hour after Eight, at the diſtance of a Cannon and half Shot, and then edg'd nearer; he brought to again about Nine, at the diſtance of a bare Cannon Shot, or about a Mile.

That he was not himſelf Engaged till towards Ten in the Morning, the *French* Fleet firing at him near three quarters of an hour, and many Shot flying over him before he fired.

During the Fight, he did obſerve the *French* to edge away.

The Smoak was ſo great, that he could not obſerve what was doing in the Admiral's Diviſion.

He could not complain that any of the Officers were failing in their Duty.

Having Monſieur *Tourvill*'s Ship oppoſite to him, he fired two Guns, to try if he would be a reaſonable Enemy; but finding he took no Notice, he bore up to him, and battled him till his Ship was Diſabled.

Captain

Captain *Clements*. He could ſee little out of his own Squadron, but judged the Headmoſt Ship of the Admiral's was at a Mile and a halfs diſtance from the Sternmoſt of theirs.

Their Diviſion and the *Dutch* were within half Cannon Shot of the Enemy, but did not come within Muſquet Shot of them.

The Earl of *Torrington* ſoon after them came within Cannon Shot.

He thought the diſtance between the Diviſions was occaſion'd by the Admiral's bearing to the *Southward*, and was alſo the Reaſon we were forwarder toward the Van.

Some of the *Dutch* Ships fought with their Fore-top-ſails to the Maſt, which he thought was occaſion'd by the ſtay they made, to let the Vice-Admiral *Cullemburgh*, who had a heavy Ship, to ſtretch forward, and their fighting thus drove them ſo far to the *Leeward*, and expos'd them to that loſs.

Captain *Fairborne*. We began to Engage about Eight and Nine, and within half an hour after we were within half Cannon Shot; and he had ſome Muſquet Shot lodg'd in his Hamocks. The *Dutch* Ships were in diſorder.

Between Twelve and One, the Admiral was towing towards the Enemy, between them and the *Dutch*; Sir *John Aſhby* was Diſabled between Twelve and One, he was Engag'd with *Tourville*, and Shot down his Flag-ſtaff.

Captain *Gother*. When We firſt began firing, we were well within Gun-ſhot, and continued Firing two hours, bearing down at laſt within large Muſquet Shot; they lay ſo till between two and three, when it was a dead Calm, and they like a Wreck.

When they had Fired two or three Broad-ſides, he ſaw the Earl of *Torrington*'s Flag within a quarter of a Mile's diſtance between Us.

Captain

Captain *Torpley*. The Admiral's Diviſion was half a Miles diſtance from us.

Capt. *Beverley*. He was in the Rear of the Admiral's Diviſion, and could not ſee how the *Dutch* were preſſed.

The Admiral and Vice-Admirals Diviſions were within a quarter of a Mile one of another, when he obſerved them.

The reaſon why he was out of his Line was, that his ſhips ſtaff was carried away.

Capt. *Pomroy*, Sir *Francis Wheeler*. We bore down to the Enemy in very good Order, and the *Dutch* ingag'd before mine; half an hour after we engag'd with Mounſieur *Amphrevil*'s Squadron.

The firſt thing he obſerved was, that the *Expedition* and Sir *John Aſhby*'s Ship were diſabled.

He ſuppoſes the Admiral's ſtretching to the *South-ward* was to prevent their being rack'd by the Enemy fore and aft.

D. of *Grafton*. That he could not tax any one to be of Fault.

That the *Dutch* and Blew Squadron began to Engage before the Admirals brought to, the *Dutch* firing firſt; and if they had not begun ſo ſoon, the Red had been nearer.

The Blew began before them, and continued it longer; but he could not ſay they were much nearer to the Enemy.

About Ten and Eleven Orders were ſent to Sir *Francis Wheeler* to make Sail, and to him to follow, which he ſuppoſes was to fill up the ſpace between Sir *John Aſhby*'s Diviſion and them; and their Ships began to be foul one of another, and before the diſtance was fill'd, the Wind fell and it was calm, but they afterwards cloſed; for when the Ebb came, the Earl of *Torrington* drove below the *Dutch*, and he did not come to an Anchor till they were to the Windward of him.

About Twelve or One he ſaw about Twelve Ships of the *French*

French bear up round, which made him lie out of ſhot.

At one time the *French* look'd as if they were going, being preſſed by the *Dutch*, and the Vice-Admiral of the Red Diviſion.

The Admiral brought to within Gun-ſhot, and if the Wind had ſtood, we ſhould have had more fighting.

When he left off, the Shot flew over him.

Captain *Nevill*. As ſoon as the Expreſs came with Orders to Fight; on *Sunday* about Four in the Afternoon, a Signal was given for a Council of Flag-Officers, to whom they were imparted, ſome of the *Dutch* Flag Officers ſaid it were to be wiſh'd they had been ſtronger; but the Queen's Order muſt be obeyed; and ſo went to their Ships to prepare.

About Two on *Monday* Morning, we heard the *French* give the Signal for going to Anchor, which was the diſcharge of Five Guns from each Flag.

About Three in the Morning we ſaw the *French* Fleet at Anchor, between three and four Leagues off to the Leeward; whereupon the Admiral order'd him to bear away.

About Four the Signal was given to our Fleet to draw into a Line of Battle; the *French* likewiſe weighing, and putting themſelves into their Line.

About Eight we came nearer to the Enemy, the Earl of *Torrington* then obſerving the *French* Admiral had Thirty Four Ships a Head of him, and Forty eight a Stern, and that himſelf had a head of him Thirty Four Ships, and Twenty Two a Stern; and that if he had taken *Tourville* to engage, his Rear muſt be over powered; he edg'd away to the Southward, to bring himſelf to the Center of the Fleet, that every one might have his Share.

The Admiral going to bear down towards the Enemy, ſaid he would not go ſternling, for then they ſhould be rack'd

rack'd fore and aft; but he would bring to, and go away looking upon them, imagining they would keep their Wind, which they did not, for they fought Three or Four Points from the Wind, having by that means opportunity to weather the *Dutch*.

The *Dutch* had but a weak Squadron, and did not keep up as they might.

About Nine, Admiral Van *Putten* began to fire at a great diſtance, and after that we could ſee no more of them.

Vice-Admiral *Aſhby* began preſently after the *Dutch*, and the Blew ſoon after that; we did not begin the Fight till about Ten, and the reaſon we did it no ſooner was becauſe the Earl of *Torrington* order'd there ſhould be no firing till we came near the Enemy.

About Eleven he ſaw ſome *French* Ships had weather'd the *Dutch*, and asked the Admiral whether he would ſuffer them to weather him alſo; he anſwered not if he could help it, and order'd the Fore-tack aboard, and that they ſhould luff to the Eaſtward, and ſo we got to Windward of the *Grafton*, and hardly got clear of the *Albemarle*, at which time the Calm fell, and we got our Boat a Head.

We ſaw Sir *John Aſhby's* Ship coming out diſmabled, and that the *Dutch* were ſhatter'd.

The Earl of *Torrington* order'd his Boats to tow him between the *Dutch* and the Enemy, where he came to Anchor.

He believes at one time in the Fight, their Squadron was as near the Enemy as any other; about 12 a Clock the Enemy then edg'd off upon a *Dutch* Fire-ſhip bearing towards them, but was accidentally ſet on Fire.

He never ſaw greater Firing than the *French* made that day.

He is of Opinion that we ought to bleſs God for that Calm, otherwiſe the whole Fleet had been in great danger.

Captain

Captain Bemboe, *Master of the Soveraign.*

We were within half-shot of the Enemy for an Hour, then the Wind proving little, we saw the *French* had weather'd the *Dutch*, and thought they had been many of them, so we got our Foretacks on board.

We did not Luff till the *French* raked in fore and aft. The *French* gave way upon a *Dutch* Fire ships coming towards them.

Captain Churchill.

The *Dutch* engaged at Nine, and we at Ten, being at good Cannon-shot, and at Eleven we were at half Cannon-shot; but the *French* drew further off; but he thinks the reason of it was to get away to avoid a *Dutch* Fire-ship, which being accidentally set on fire, was driven towards them.

Captain Greenville.

Half an Hour after the Signal for Battel was given, the *Dutch* began to Engage, and soon after the Earl of *Torrington* brought to at Cannon shot, and between Eleven and Twelve we were within half Cannon-shot—— The *French* towed off to get clear of a *Dutch* Fire-ship.

Captain Hastings.

Little account can be given in Fire and Smoak; their Squadron, which was the Admirals, was engaged between Nine and Ten. The Calm fell about Twelve, but we continued fighting until Two.

We hald away Southerly before the Engagement.

Captain Hobſon.

We of the Rear-Admirals Squadron were rather to the Leeward of the Admiral, being good Gun-ſhot off the Enemy; and if the Wind had laſted, we had been nearer, which he is ſorry they were not.

The *French* lay in a half Moon; if we had got in with them, in probability, we had done and received more dammage.

Captain Cornwall.

When they began Fighting, they were long Gun-ſhot off, about a Mile; however he had then a Shot in his Maſt, and his Ship ſhot through and through.

He thinks they were at no time nearer than half Gun-ſhot.

He cann't tell why the Admiral did not bear nearer, for there was Wind enough for two Hours: he had heard the reaſon given, was to avoid being racked fore and aft, but he believes if he had done it, it would have been for the better.

He believes the *Blue* fought nearer than they did in the Rear Admirals Diviſion.

He never ſaw the Sea-men ſo chearful as they were in the Fight.

He is of Opinion, if the *French* had perſued their advantage, and all weighed the next Tide, as we did, and as ſome of them did, they might have endanger'd our whole Fleet, for he thought them twice as ſtrong as we were, after the *Dutch* had ſuffer'd ſo much.

Captain Layton.

We began the Fight about Nine: Some Guns were fired out of diſtance, but the Rear Admiral did not fire, until he came within ſhot, and ſome Shot from the Enemy paſs'd as far over their Ships as it was to them.

We

We had Wind enough to have gone on Board the Enemy, but he cannot dive into the reaſon why it was not done.

The *French* kept in a row, by which means thoſe in the Center were not ſo near them. He never in his life-time ſaw more Courage than was ſhewed by the Sea-men.

Rear-Admiral Rook.

That the Admiral, ſteering towards the Rear, left a ſpace betwixt his and Sir *John Aſhby*'s Diviſion, who was thereupon obliged to bear towards him: that he thought his Intention had been to go and Engage the *French* Admiral, but he did not do it; therefore perhaps it was, that he thought the *French* ſtrongeſt in the Rear.

The Admiral brought to about Ten: at about a Miles diſtance, he was ſomething nearer with his Diviſion, but durſt not break his Line, and therefore he brought to more to the Leeward, and Engaged, having the Admiral on his Weather Bow.

He bare down two or three times, till he had the Rear of the *French* in his Wake a-ſtern; he did not ſee when the Admiral Luffed.

Captain Binge.

When they were firſt brought to, they were not within ſhot, then the *Blue* edged nearer, and the neareſt they came, he thought, was about half Cannon ſhot.

He don't know why the Admiral brought to no nearer, but he thinks lasking down had been the better way.

He thought the Fleet had been pretty near a ſtrait Line, yet the reſt was diſtant from the Wings, becauſe the *French* lay in a Bow.

He did not obſerve to give way to the *Blue*, but they once ſeemed to be in a huddle, ſo they made uſe of our Boats to tow them into order again.

He saw a great Ship, whose Poop blew up, sail out of the *French* Fleet, but he thought she returned again at Night.

Captain Botham, *Captain* Tyrrell, *Captain* Hubbard.

Within two Miles of the Enemy, we brought to, then we edged nearer, and brought to again within a Mile, and we were so near, that the Enemies Shot went through and through.

We saw the *French* edged away several times from our great Ships, and they had their Top-gallant Sails and Sprit Sails to make more way.

He was second to the *Anne*, and the Rear of the *Red* were two Miles a head off their Points upon their Weather-Bow: And the *French* Fleet, being drawn into a Bow, made the *Red* at a greater distance from them.

The *Red* had left Shooting an Hour and half before they did.

He don't know that any small Shot touched his Ship.

The latter end of the Engagement was the hottest with them in the *Blue*, they not being able to work their Ships.

His Opinion is, that the *French* were more in number, yet if every one had fought as they should, they might have worsted them, for it was the Enemy at last was very free to leave: then towing off with their Boats, his Ship had six Foot Water in the Hold, and with great difficulty he tow'd her off and stopt her Leaks.

Acquainting the Admiral next Morning with the Condition of his Ship, he order'd him twenty good Seamen out of the *Warwick*, which was a good means to preserve him, he getting off, keeping still to Windward of the Fleet.

Captain

Captain *Jennifer.*

After the Fight began he could make little Obſervation; The *Dutch* engag'd a quarter of an hour before the *Blew*: It appeared to him, that the *French* Fleet lay in a Bow: Within a quarter of an hour after they were engag'd within Muſquet-ſhot, he had his Rigging cut, and his Tackle and Sheets ſhot away: Two hours after the Fight began, he ſaw a Gap between their Diviſion and the *Red.* They were to *Leeward* of the *Red*, but not very much. He ſaw no great Advantage was had of the *French* in the Fight. Some of his Men ſay, they ſaw a *French* Ship ſink, but he ſaw no ſuch thing himſelf.

Captain Mees.

Between Nine and Ten, we began to engage: before Noon we were within Muſquet-ſhot of the Enemy, but I had not Men aboard to ply ſmall ſhot, and I received none from the Enemy. Capt. *Tyrrel* being diſabled, he went between him and the Enemy.

Sir *Ralph Delaval* ſent to him about Two a Clock to make Sail to joyn the *Red*, who he thought to be at Two Miles diſtance from them, and as far (as he judged) from the Enemy: So they left off firing.

He thought that Diſtance was made by Captain *Tyrrel's* laying back; and they ſailing to fill that place, received Damage from the Enemies Ships that were oppoſite to it.

He ſaw ſome *French* Ships edge away.

Captain *Tenant*, Captain *Dorrel.*

He thinks that every Ship might have fought; and in caſe they had fought, and all the Fleet had gone in, we had ſent the Enemy home; for thoſe that engag'd their Squadron

dron, made Sail from them, not only with the Sails they fought with, but looſed their Top-gallant Sails, Sprit-Sails and Main Sails; and when there was little Wind, they tow'd from them with their Boats a-head.

The latter part of the Fight he was within Piſtol-ſhot of the Enemy, a quarter of a Mile at leaſt, and the Vice-Admiral, Sir *Ralph Delaval*, was within Cables length aſtern.

I judg'd, the *Red* Squadron, when they brought to, were out of Cannon-ſhot; but during the Fight, he could not tell what they did.

Vice Admiral *Delaval*.

The Wind was freſh all the morning, but began to be duller towards noon.

The Signal for Battle was given at Eight in the morning, and about half an hour after, the Earl of *Torrington* brought to at the Diſtance of Two Gun-ſhot from the Enemy; whereupon, with his Diviſion of the *Blew*, he bore down, and did not begin to fire till he was within Muſquet-ſhot of the Enemy, and that he had enough of their Ships before him to deal with.

He was engaged with *De Eſtree*'s Squadron, which edg'd off, as he preſſed them: Inſomuch, that he and his Diviſion were advanc'd almoſt to range with the reſt of the *French* Fleet, and in his, and the Opinion of others, the *French* bore right away, as if they were running, and ever from the firſt beginning of his engaging, he found the Enemy made a jogging Sail.

He obſerved the Earl of *Torrington* brought to again about 9: So that part of the *Red* lying by, and the *Blew* bearing forward, he ſaw the Fleet formed, as it were, into an Elbow, between Two and Three a Clock, and the Interval between him and the *Red* was ſo great, as that he thoug

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Thirteen or Fourteen of the Enemies Ships had nothing to fire at; and if all the Diviſions had bore down equally, which they might have done, he won't ſay, they ſhould have beaten the *French*, (they out-numbring them, and plyed theirs very well) but he believes the *French* would have had enough, and been glad to have gone home; for the *Red* Squadron being the ſtrongeſt in the Fleet, if that had preſs'd, the matter could not have gone better.

He can't but ſay, the *Dutch* did not bear down to the Enemy in that Order they might have done, and that he thought the Earl of *Torrington*, laying the Head of his Ship ſeveral ways, might puzzle Sir *John Aſhby*.

He can't charge any of his Squadron of being backward.

He did indeed lend his Boat to ſome of them, particularly Captain *Jennifer*, in the *Edgar*, whoſe Anſwer was, That his Braces and Rigging were ſhot, and that he did what he could to come up; which he believes was ſo, for he ſet his ſmall Sails, and came in, and had his ſhare.

He ſent likewiſe, and writ to Captain *Dorrel*, but it was rather by way of Advice, That he ſhould ſet Sail, ſince the Enemy had ſtretched away; ſo that ſome of the Ships at Stern were not then in a poſſibility of engaging; upon which he did what was poſſible.

And he believes the Gentlemen of the *Red* Squadron, who had the misfortune not to be near enough, would have every one done their parts, if they had had Opportunity to be nearer engag'd.

He bore right down, to be nearer the Enemy, receiving their Shot fore and aft; and he did not bring to till he was within Muſquet-ſhot; for he that will fight, muſt hazard.

Cap-

Captain *Aylmer.*

We began firing half an hour after the *Dutch*: When we first fired, we were within half Cannon-shot, and come somewhat nearer afterwards, but not much; for as we edg'd towards the Enemy, they edg'd from us.

We were in so much Smoke, that for an hour we could not see the *Red* Squadron.

Sir *Ralph*'s Squadron took the most Southermost Ship of the Enemy, and so in order.

Though he bore too much to keep the Line of Battle, he can't say the *French* were running away, but he is sure some of their Boats were towing them a-head.

If there were any fault committed in the Action, it must be the Officers; for the Seamen did their parts.

Captain *Foulks.*

The *Dutch* began to fire an hour before us, but at such a distance, that their Shot fell short; so they gave off for a while, and then began. He imagin'd they did it, because they were not near enough the first time.

About Eleven or Twelve a Clock, their Line, which was the *Blue*, was within Musquet-shot of the Enemy, and the Vice-Admiral sent him Word, that the Battle being so fair, he would bear in still. He saw the *French* bear away, with their Boats a-head. Some of the *French* Ships set their Top-Sails and Sprit-Sails.

He mist a great Ship of the Enemies, his Shot ceasing, which he supposes to be a *French* Commander. His Men call'd from the Top-Mast, and said he was sinking; and more saw it, but he did not.

Cap-

Captain Martin.

The *Dutch* began to fire about Nine: Next Sir *John Asshby*'s Diviſion fired, and the *Blew* Four or Five Minutes after them. Some Ship to his Rear fired a Broad-ſide, but the reſt of the Squadron kept ſtill towards the Enemy, lasking until they came within Muſquet-ſhot.

I obſerved Four of the *French* Ships bore away together, which were oppoſite to the Vice-Admiral, and one of their Ships in the Rear had the Poop blown up; and before the Battle was done, ſeveral of the *French* looſed all their ſmall Sails: and ſome were on the Run, as he thought. He fought from a quarter after Nine till Three, and then he was diſabled.

He obſerved, as any of the *French* Ships gave way, their places were ſupply'd from their Rear, and their Line fill'd up.

The *Red* were ſo far to Windward, that he could ſee along through the Two Lines, and the *French* appear'd to him to lie in a Bow.

If the Squadrons had fought equally, he believes the *French* would have receiv'd more Damage, and we might have had better ſucceſs.

Captain Walthers.

He being in a ſmall Ship, was oblig'd half a Cables length to the Leeward, to make his Guns reach their Squadrons, beginning to fight between Nine and Ten, being very well within Gun-ſhot. The Fight laſted for Three hours; but the headmoſt Ships of the Squadron were longer engag'd.

In his Judgment, the *French* gave way, ſome of their Ships being towed about, between Twelve and One a Clock.

Captain Graydon.

The *Red* were ſo much to the Weather of them, that he could ſee through to the *Dutch*. Their Squadron was ſmartly engag'd for Three hours, and by what he could perceive, they did not receive ſo much Damage, when near, as at a diſtance, though the Shot then flew over too.

Our Men fired faſter then the *French*, after a little time; but before the Concluſion they fell to quick firing again.

He ſaw one *French* Ship diſabled, his Main-Top-Maſt being ſhot through, whilſt he was attempting to ſet a Fire-Ship on her. He diſcover'd, by a Glare through the Smoke, about Eight *French* Ships ſtanding almoſt in a Line with him, near as far to Windward as himſelf.

He believes, if they had been all of one Mind, the *French* would have had enough of it, and not have followed us.

The Vice-Admiral's Ship made a continual Fire.

Captain Jones.

After the firſt firing we came within Muſquet-ſhot of the Enemy; and the nearer we came, we receiv'd the leſs damage both in Hull and Rigging, their Shot flying high.

He took up a Young Man that was blown up with the Poop of the *Terrible*.

He believes, if all had bore down, and come within Piſtol-ſhot of the Enemy, they would have been glad to go home.

Copia Vera.

A

JOURNAL:

OR,

Account of the Paſſages and Actions that have happen'd in our Fleet, ſince we ſet Sail from St. Helens, *to our Return to the* Buoy of the Nore.

Sunday, June 22. 1690.

AT Ten at Night our General fired his Gun, to weigh, and by Two in the Morning the Fleet was ready, the Wind at *W.* and by *N.* and *W. N. W.*

Monday June 23. At Ten a Clock in the Morning we weigh'd, the Wind at *E. N. E.* eaſie Winds. At Three in the Afternoon the Wind veered about to the *S. W.* and at Four we came to an Anchor, in Twenty Seven Fathom Water, the *Culver Cliff* on the *Wight* bearing *S. W.* by *S.* from us, Six or Seven Miles.

Tueſday 24. At Five in the Morning the Fleet weigh'd the Wind at *N. E.* by *N.* a freſh Gale, we ſtanding off *S. E.* by *E.* At Seven a Clock we ſaw ſeveral Ships ſtanding in for the Iſland; ſo that we came to Anchor in Fifteen Fathom Water, the *Culver Cliff* bearing from us *W. N. W.* ½ *N.*

Our Smacks were ordered in after them, and they proved to be ſmall Veſſels come from the *VVeſtward*.

VVedneſday 25. At Five a Clock this Morning we weigh'd, the *Dutch* Fleet ſtanding to the Northwards, and our General to the Southwards, drawing the Fleet into a Line of Battel, the Vice-Admiral of the *Red*, with Star-board Tacks on board, leading the Van, weather'd the *Dutch*; and ſo lay after they tack'd, and came on with the other, as though they had been engag'd, the Wind veering out to the *S. S. E.* and a thick Fog. The Fleet all came to an Anchor about Nine in the Morning, in Seventeen Fathom Water, the *Culver Cliff* bearing *N. VV.* and *Duneſſe VV. N. VV.* diſtant, by Eſtimation, Five Leagues. At half an hour paſt Nine, one of our Frigats came in with her Top-gallant Sheets flying, and firing; ſo that our Fleet weigh'd, and ſtood to the Eaſtwards, the Wind at *S. S. E.* each Admiral having his Jack-Flag at his Mizen-Peak, for his Diviſion to fall into their places, in order for Battel, we then ſeeing the *French* Fleet to the Weſtward of us. At Two in the Afternoon the Vice-Admiral of the *Blew*, Sir *Ralph Delaval* tacked, and ſtood to the Southwards, the *French* Fleet ſtanding the ſame way, the Wind veering about to the Eaſtwards. At Three the Rear-Admiral of the *Red* tacked, as did all the Squadron. At Four in the Afternoon the *Dutch* tacked, they bringing up the Rear with Lar-board-tacks on board; but when Star-board-tacks on board to lead the Van. At Six in the Afternoon we had the Weather-Gage of the *French* about Three Leagues. And when we had made the Fleet, we tacked, and ſtood to the Northwards, the Wind at *E.* and a freſh Gale. At Seven, the Vice Admiral of the *Blue* fired ſeveral Guns; ſo that we tack'd, and ſtood towards the *French* again, and at Eight at Night we came to Anchor in Thirty Five Fathom, *Duneſſe* bearing *N. VV.* by *N.* diſtant Six Leagues, the *French* Fleet bearing *S. S. E.*,

from

from us about Three Leagues, the Wind Eaſterly and a freſh Gale all Night.

Thurſday, 26. At ſix in the Morning we weigh'd and ſtood to the Northwards, the Wind at *E. N. E.* a freſh Gale. At eleven we came to Anchor in twenty eight Fathom Water, *Duneſſe* bearing *W.* $\frac{1}{2}$ *S.* from us ſeven Leagues, the *French* Fleet ſtretching to the Southwards. At four in the Afternoon we weigh'd, and ſtood away to the Eaſtwards, the Wind at *N. W.* ſmall Winds, the *French* bearing *S. S. W.* from us about four Leagues, plying after us. At eleven at Night we came to Anchor in thirty four Fathom.

Friday, 27. At Eight this Morning our Fleet was all under ſail, the Wind at *E.* we ſtanding in *N. N. E.* At Twelve we came to Anchor in twenty one Fathom, *Beachy* bearing *N. E.* $\frac{1}{2}$ *E.* three or four Leagues diſtant, the Wind all one, but very thick. At Eight at Night we weigh'd, and at Twelve we came to Anchor in twenty eight Fathom, ſtill plying to the Eaſtwards.

Saturday, 28. At Seven in the Morning our Fleet was all under ſail, and at Twelve we came to Anchor in twenty eight Fathom, *Beachy* bearing *N. N. W.* from us four Leagues, the Wind between the *N. N. E.* and the *N. E.* This Morning came in one of our Frigats with her Top-gallant Sheets flying and firing, ſo that each Admiral put on his Jack-Flag at Mizen Peak for their Diviſions to fall in their places. At Seven at Night we weigh'd.

Sunday, 29. At Two a Clock in the Morning we came to Anchor in twenty nine Fathom, *Beachy* bearing *W.* by *N.* and *Fairlee N. N. W.* the Wind at *N.* and *N. N. E.* At Ten this Forenoon we were under ſail, the Wind all one, and a freſh Gale, we ſtanding in *N. W.* And at Three in the Afternoon we came to Anchor in twenty nine Fathom, *Beachy* bearing *W. N. W.* and *Fairlee N by E.* This

After-

Afternoon came a Sloop from *Rye*, as we ſuppoſe, with a Packet. At Nine at Night we weigh'd, and ſtood to the Eaſtward all Night.

Monday, 30. At Three a Clock this Morning our General hove out his Jack-Flag at Mizen Peake, as did the reſt of the Admirals: and after their Diviſions were in their places, they bore away to the Weſtwards upon the *French*, the Wind at *N. E.* and *N. E. by N.* a very freſh Gale. About Four in the Morning we ſee the *French* Fleet ſtanding for our Shore, with their Star-board Tacks on board. At Eight in the Morning the Bloody Flag was ſpread at our General's Fore-top-maſt-head. The *Dutch* leading the Van, and like Men of undaunted Courage, bore down upon the Van of the *French*, who ſhew'd no leſs, for they lay with their head Sails to the Maſts (we having the Weather-gage) ready to receive us. At Nine in the Morning the *Dutch* were Engaged, and plied them ſo hotly, that they made the *French* edge away, and ſome of the head-moſt Ships ſtretched a-head and tacked upon the *Dutch*, the *Dutch* never once ſtarting; but there lay and continued the Fight till the very laſt Guns that were fired, which was about Five in the Afternoon before they parted, although ſeveral of their Ships quite diſabled, at leaſt Seven or Eight; ſome having loſt all to their Fore-maſt; ſome nothing but ſmooth Hulls; beſides what loſt Top-maſts: They were not above Twenty or Twenty one, as ever I could tell them, but the generality of them is quite ſpoiled: And ſince the Engagement ſeveral of them burned, whether by the *French* that purſued us, or by themſelves, I know not: never were Ships more batter'd and torn, nor ever did Men behave themſelves better than they did.

'Tis ſaid they loſt Seven Captains; and that one of their Ships Flag ſtruck three times to the *French*; but after

after they see no quarters was like to be had, they took Courage again and saved their Ship. Had the other Two Squadrons gone on with the Courage they did, the *French* would never have followed us up Channel. About Ten a Clock Sir *John Ashby*, Vice-Admiral of the *Red*, Engaged, and he and some of his Division had a share not much less than the *Dutch*, but fought at a far greater distance, so that our Ships were spoiled before ever they came near them. The *Blue* had some Broad-sides now and then, but not comparable to either of the other, till about Two in the Afternoon it proved little Wind; and withal Veered about to the *S. S. E.* so that the Rear of the *French* was equal with the *Blue*, as to the Wind; and, as I suppose, bore upon the *Blue* Squadron, and continued very hot till about Four in the Afternoon: when the *French* lay their Heads to the Westwards, and ours to the Eastwards, coming to Anchor all hands on the Tide of Ebb, *Beachy* bearing *N.* $\frac{1}{2}$ *W.* distant by judgment Four Leagues. The *French* coming to Anchor close by us. At Nine at Night we weigh'd and stood to the Eastwards.

Tuesday, July 1. At Six in the Morning we came to Anchor in twenty four Fathom, *Beachy* bearing *W. NW.* three Leagues from us, the Wind at *E. N. E.* where we rid till Eleven a Clock, and then we weigh'd, and in standing off we see a great Smoak to the Westward of us, which we suppose to be a Ship set on fire by the *French*, who are now plying after us. At Five in the Afternoon we came to Anchor in Twenty two Fathom, *Fairlee* bearing *N.* $\frac{1}{2}$ *E. Beachy VV. by N.* This Evening we see about Forty five Sail of the *French* Fleet about two Leagues to the Leeward of us. At eleven at Night we weigh'd; and at twelve a great Ship was on fire, and burnt a *Dutch man*, as we suppose her to be, but whether they or the *French* set her on fire we know not.

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Wednesday, July 2. At two in the Morning she blew up. This Day we see the *French* Fleet.

Thursday, July 3. The Wind at *E. N. E.* a fresh Gale. At twelve at Noon a great Ship on fire. At three in the Afternoon more on fire; but whether *Dutch* or *English* we know not, nor by whom fired, but there was Six or Seven Sail of *French* by them.

Friday, July 4. At three in the Afternoon a *Dutch* Fire-ship burnt at *S. W.* end of *Rye-Bay* near *Fairlee*; the *Rye* Men told us the *Dutch* burnt her themselves: but we see two *French* lie by her till she blew up, almost within reach of our Guns. The whole Fleet at Anchor in *Rye-Bay* and off the *Ness*.

Saturday, July 5. This Morning we weigh'd out of *Rye-Bay*, and at Night the Fleet went without the *Goodwin*, and came to Anchor at the *North-sands head*. This Afternoon the *Anne* Frigat was set on fire, we not being able to keep her any longer after the *French* came up with her. She was ashore the Day before in *Rye-Bay*, and we have saved most of her Trade, except her Guns, which will be taken up again.

Sunday, July 6. Some of the *Anne's* People was on board here, and told us the *French* landed some Men by *Dungeness* in *Rye-Bay*.

This Morning the Fleet will be at the *Buoy of the Nore*, where we now are.

From the Buoy of the Nore,
the 18*th of* July, 1690.

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